

Burlington Telecom 200 Church Street Burlington, VT 05401

STATEMENT OF CHRIS BURNS, GENERAL MANAGER BURLINGTON TELECOM

Commissioner David O'Brien's statements in the Burlington Free Press that Burlington Telecom is in "debt beyond their ability to recover is not accurate". After less than four years of operation, Burlington Telecom currently has annual forecasted revenues of \$8 million, 4,600 customers, and employs 30 people locally. As a capital intensive start-up venture, Burlington Telecom has required substantial financing to build a state of the art fiber optic system.

We are extremely pleased with our success to date despite the worst crisis in the national and international economy since the depression. Commissioner O'Brien's remarks inappropriately and inaccurately undermine customer and the public's confidence in Burlington Telecom. Burlington's customers and citizens can be confident that our finances are sound and Burlington Telecom is a viable business.